

Wisconsin Emergency Management

Digest

Governor Jim Doyle

Major General Albert Wilkening
The Adjutant General

Johnnie L. Smith
Administrator

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deadly
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recover from
Hurricane Katrina
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Governor signs EM legislation

Governor Jim Doyle signed two emergency management bills this spring that will enhance mutual aid in Wisconsin and also establish a disaster relief fund for local government.

Senate Bill 642 creates the Wisconsin Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The measure ensures that all levels of government coordinate their response efficiently in the event of a large-scale emergency and helps communities develop mutual aid compacts that will allow other emergency response agencies to provide assistance to a community during a disaster or emergency.



Governor Doyle signed the mutual aid legislation SB 642 at the Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Lake Geneva on April 5. Surrounding the Governor were members of the Wisconsin Homeland Security Council and supporters of the legislation.

The other measure Governor Doyle signed was Assembly Bill 1028 which creates an additional source of financial relief to communities that have experienced a natural disaster, and who have been denied assistance from the federal government. Wisconsin has not had a disaster fund. This will provide some assistance to communities impacted by floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters.

The bill was in response to last summer's tornadoes that hit Dane, Vernon and Richland counties. Governor Doyle requested federal disaster aid but the Bush Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied the request for assistance along with a formal appeal.

Governor's Conference a success

Pandemic flu planning, response to natural disasters and Hurricane Katrina were some of the workshops presented at the 39th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The event was held April 4-5 at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva.

During his address, Governor Doyle told participants that a proposal to cut federal funding for emergency management programs didn't make sense following the problems associated with Hurricane Katrina. The Bush Administration has



WEM Administrator Johnnie Smith congratulates Lt. Kevin Williams for receiving his Emergency Management Certification.

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Be aware of the dangers of hot weather

Governor Doyle has proclaimed June 15, 2006 as Wisconsin's Heat Awareness Day. The annual campaign is to remind people of the dangers associated with hot temperatures.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), summer heat waves have been the biggest weather-related killers in Wisconsin for the past 50 years, far exceeding tornado and other storm-related deaths. Since 1986, heat waves have resulted in 112 direct, heat-related deaths and an additional 94 indirect, heat-related deaths as well as hundreds of heat-related illnesses.

People at Higher Risk of Heat-Related Illness

- Older adults
- Those suffering with chronic heart or lung problems
- Infants and young children
- Users of some medications: especially some drugs for mental disorders, movement disorders, allergies, depression and heart or circulatory problems



Photo by NWS



Photo by NWS

Beat the Heat

- Never leave children, disabled persons or pets in a parked car—even briefly! Temperatures in a car can become life-threatening within minutes even if the windows are partially opened.
- Drink plenty of water or juice—keep hydrated
- Cover windows to keep direct sun out. If you don't have an air conditioner, open windows to let air circulate. When it's hotter than 95 degrees, use fans to blow hot air out of the window, rather than to blow hot air on your body. Basements or ground floors are often cooler than upper floors.

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New WEM Fire Services Coordinator

Keith Tveit is the new Wisconsin Emergency Management Fire Services Coordinator. Keith works with local governments to coordinate fire resources during emergencies and to help ensure appropriate training, planning and response needs are met at the local, regional and state levels.



Keith Tveit

Keith served over 27 years with the fire and EMS service, including 18 years as a Chief Fire Officer. Before joining WEM, Keith served as Fire Chief for the City of Ashland from 1992 to 2005. Welcome Keith!

Ensuring our first responders are ready

By Johnnie Smith, WEM Administrator

One of the lessons Hurricane Katrina has taught us is the importance of having a personal preparedness plan. This plan is not only needed for citizens to develop but it's also important for first responders to have in place to ensure that their own families are safe while they are responding to the emergency or disaster. Emergency responders need to focus on the job at hand, saving lives and protecting their communities when disaster happens, not worry whether their family is ok and at a safe location.

As mentioned in pamphlets produced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, simply put, preparing makes sense. The likelihood that you and your family will survive a house fire is greater if you have a working smoke detector and an exit strategy. The same is true for surviving other emergencies—whether it is floods, tornadoes or a terrorist event. We must have tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Below are some guidelines for developing a disaster kit and an emergency family plan.

Make a Family Plan

Communications Plan — Develop a family communications plan so you will know how to contact each other. Consider a communications plan where each family member calls the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency. It may also be best to select someone who lives out of town so they are not impacted directly by the disaster or emergency event. Also make sure everyone knows that telephone number and has a calling card.

Plan to Evacuate — Plan in advance how you will assemble your family and anticipate where you will go if you are forced to leave your home. Also make sure everyone knows where the family will meet in the event members are separated during the emergency. Items to bring include the **4 P's** — **Papers** (personal records and financial information), **Pocketbooks** (credit cards, checkbook and cash), **Pills** (prescription medications and any special dietary or health items), and **Pets** (make sure you take your pets with you and bring pet food, pet carrier and other pet items)

Make a Disaster Kit

- A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil
- One change of clothing and footwear per person and a blanket or sleeping bag per person
- First-Aid Kit
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- NOAA Weather Radio

There are many other suggestions and brochures available on how to protect your family at www.ready.gov or www.redcross.org.



Kewaunee County Emergency Management held a Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) course in early May. Participants received instruction on disaster preparedness, basic fire suppression, basic first aid, light search and rescue and other ways to help themselves and the community. The 20 hour course culminated in an exercise to test what had been learned. Photo by Kewaunee County Emergency Management

Hurricane Katrina forges new friendships

By Mike Ciardo, Whitewater Emergency Management Director

Following the tragic events of Hurricane Katrina last fall, Wisconsin Emergency Management received a request from the State of Mississippi for emergency managers to assist in relief efforts. Under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), I, along with Manitowoc County Emergency Management Director Nancy Crowley and Grant County Emergency Management Director Steve Braun worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide community outreach in the affected counties of Harrison, Jackson and Hancock.

I was assigned to Hancock County with a FEMA partner and during those weeks I met many local officials and residents. The devastation in the cities of Waveland and Bay St Louis was beyond comprehension and no photograph or video could document the enormity of the damage. Throughout my contacts however, there was a sense of resolve among community members and a strong will to recover.

As I was finishing my deployment, I made a commitment to return and continue relief efforts. I found that the City of Bay St Louis was about the same size as Whitewater with the same unique characteristics. I further discovered that Whitewater's native son Stephen Ambrose, a noted author and historian, lived in Bay St Louis until his death in 2002.



UW-Whitewater students joined Bay St Louis residents in sorting donations for local schools that were impacted by the hurricanes.



UW-Whitewater students assist a teacher in Bay St Louis in rebuilding his home.

Upon my return home, I began an effort to adopt the City of Bay St Louis as a sister city. The City Council, by unanimous resolution, adopted Bay St Louis on November 15, 2005. A sister city committee was formed and a financial account established to collect donations. On January 2, 2006, a contingent of UW-Whitewater students and local officials traveled to Bay St Louis. We worked for eight days in local schools, libraries and private homes of teachers. Money was donated to each school, the public library, the police and fire departments and the chamber of commerce.

Every person on this trip was emotionally affected by the resiliency of the people of Bay St Louis and their positive spirit to rebuild. On March 24, several of the volunteers spent their spring break back in Bay St Louis. During this recent trip, a sign of progress was observed as businesses were opening and debris piles were replaced by new home construction. A term "voluntourism" was promoted by the group as we dined in newly opened restaurants and purchased goods at local stores.

Currently, a monthly needs assessment is received from Bay St Louis officials and Whitewater continues to provide monetary and in-kind donations based on that assessment. Several fund raising efforts are ongoing. It is this commitment of cities like Whitewater that will make a difference in bringing back the quality of life to the City of Bay St Louis and for those affected by Katrina.

New operations center for Price County

By Jeff Hein, Price County Emergency Management Director

Price County Emergency Management has a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is ready for any disaster or emergency.

The facility is located in the Normal Building in Phillips and consists of an operations room, communications room, overflow room and joint information center. The lower level of the building is a secure facility where the EOC operations and communications rooms are located. An overflow operations room for additional personnel is located on the second floor and a joint information center for public information and press briefings is located on the top floor.

The EOC operations room has four computers with internet access along with nine multi-line phones. Emergency calls will continue to be handled by the Price County Sheriff's Office Dispatcher using the enhanced 911 system.

The EOC will use a computer based information management system called E-sponder that will allow the Price County EOC to communicate and report directly with the state EOC as well as track and assess information needed to respond effectively to emergencies.

The EOC staff have been identified and received orientation training as to their duties and responsibilities during an emergency and ongoing training will be scheduled later.



Crews install some of the communications equipment outside the new Price County Emergency Operations Center. Photo by Jeff Hein



EMAC Training

Wisconsin Emergency Management hosted Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) training this spring. Representatives from various state agencies participated in the two day training. EMAC is a multi-state mutual aid agreement. Teaching the course were Rich Weber of Ohio Emergency Management and WEM's Southwest Regional Director Larry Reed.

Alert prompts EOC activations

Emergency operation centers for the State of Wisconsin and Kewaunee and Manitowoc Counties were activated on April 26 when the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station went to an alert status.

This was the first time in more than 20 years that the Kewaunee plant had issued an alert status. The event occurred shortly before 9:00 p.m. and ended around 12:30 a.m. An alert is the second least serious of four event classifications at a nuclear plant according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The alert status was issued when workers had to manually shutdown the plant after a feed water pump shut off. According to Dominion which operates the plant, the feed water pump supplies water to the steam generator for steam production to run the turbine generator which generates electricity. There was no threat to public safety. However under existing emergency plans, the event called for the alert status and the activation of the EOC's as a precautionary measure.

WEMA continues to advocate local programs

By Ben Schliesman, WEMA President

The Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) continues to be an advocate for the local emergency management and homeland security programs throughout the state. Here are some recent accomplishments and our goals for the future.

WEMA Website — The WEMA website <http://wema.us> was recently updated and new information is always being posted. Information currently available on the website includes:

- Results from the recent WEMA Statewide Emergency Management Survey
- Contest to design a new WEMA logo
- Information on NIMS training
- Vendor resources
- A map of the state with links to each county's homepage
- A secured area for members/membership status
- Web links to other state emergency management associations
- Upcoming and/or recently passed legislation
- Sample plans, exercises, and templates (NOTE: we are always looking for more)
- Web links to county, state and federal agencies



Promoting Emergency Management — WEMA officials have met with our Congressional members regarding the status of Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the importance of this federal grant program. EMPG is the only federal grant that is used to help pay for emergency management personnel costs associated with planning, response and recovery efforts. EMPG continues to be the backbone of county emergency management programs. Unfortunately EMPG is under-funded. WEMA is working with our state partners and other national emergency management organizations to continue to fight for funding year after year to make sure that we continue to have the much needed federal resources to help us do our jobs.

Public Service Announcements (PSA's) — WEMA is working with some of the county emergency management directors in northwest Wisconsin to develop a series of PSA's. Subjects include NOAA Weather Radios, Making a Family Disaster Plan, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and First Responder Safety. When finalized, the PSA's will be distributed to WEMA members for distribution to their local media outlets.

WEMA Conference — WEMA's upcoming annual meeting is tentatively slated for October 2006. We are looking for a theme for this year's annual meeting and a way to include as many of our first responder partners (law enforcement, fire, EMS, public health, public works, and state and federal agencies) as possible. Please contact any member of the Conference Committee (see website) with suggestions.

Developing New Relationships — Lastly, WEMA is always looking to foster new relationships with organizations and agencies to make WEMA a strong voice to promote our local emergency management and homeland security programs in Wisconsin. In addition, WEMA would like to add new people to our various committees. For more information about WEMA, please contact a WEMA representative. Contact information is available on the WEMA website or contact Ben Schliesman at bschliesman@co.kenosha.wi.us or 262-605-7900.



Preparing for the worst

Response agencies in Ripon held an exercise on April 12 to evaluate communications and the use of the Incident Command System. The scenario involved a terrorist attack on a train that was hauling anhydrous ammonia. Photo by Dan Dahlke

Promoting safety with NOAA Weather Radios

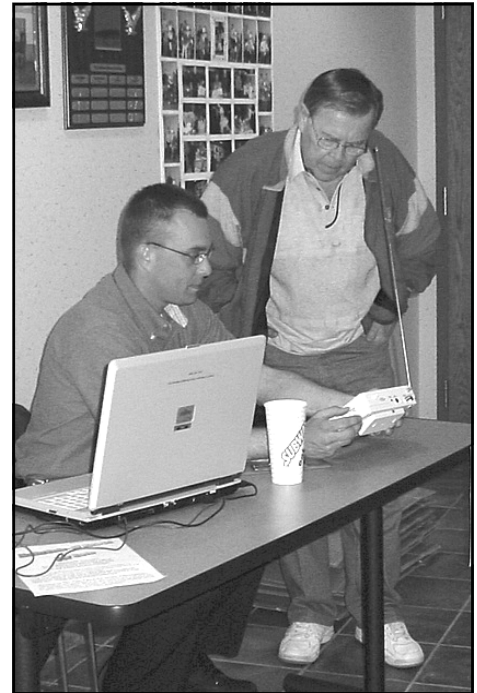
By Kathy Frank, Marinette County Emergency Management Program Assistant

To help keep Marinette County residents aware of potential severe weather, the Marinette County Board approved \$25,000 to purchase NOAA weather all-hazard alert radios. The radios are then re-sold to county residents at half-price with one per household.

Not knowing what kind of response we would have, Marinette County Emergency Management initially ordered 100 radios. The response was tremendous with the entire lot sold out in one day. The second order of 200 radios is also sold out. Unfortunately, the supplier has had so much demand nationwide that the next order is backlogged until mid-June.

Marinette County has set up a recorded phone line for residents to hear information regarding the program and to leave contact information if they are interested in purchasing a NOAA weather radio. They are then contacted when the radios are in stock.

The program has the support of the Marinette County Board which has issued a resolution encouraging all households to have a weather radio. The Law Enforcement Committee selected a model from First Alert that has a feature to alert residents to all hazards.



Marinette County Emergency Management Director Eric Burmeister explains some of the features of the NOAA Weather All-Hazards Radios that the county is selling to area citizens.

Regional EM News Briefs

Welcome to **Susan Knudson** who has joined Wisconsin Emergency Management as an **Office Operations Associate for the EPCRA Program**. Susan is a retiree of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.



Susan Knudson

Best wishes to **Holly Heggestad** who has left WEM. Holly accepted a position with the Department of Corrections.

Bill Stolte, former Ozaukee County Emergency Management has been named **Waukesha County Emergency Management Director**.

Outagamie County Emergency Management Director Bruce Sim is retiring. Happy retirement!

Congratulations to **Lt. Kevin Williams, Jennifer Warmke, Cullen Peltier, Linda Kollmann, Tammi Bechel, and Shannon Ladwig** who received their Level 4 Emergency Manager Certification. Good Job!!!



New Response Equipment

The Cudahy Fire Department is proud of its new "Special Operations" trailer acquired through a Homeland Defense Grant. The trailer, from Hanna Trailers in Oak Creek, is 18' long, 7' wide and 7' tall. This trailer, along with other Haz-Mat, Confined Space and Trench Rescue equipment purchased thru this grant, helps bring the Fire Department's capability to a higher level.

Photo by Lt. Robert Schmidt

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proposed cutting \$13.1 million to the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program, the only federal grant available to the states to fund planning, preparedness and response efforts for all types of hazards. Wisconsin receives \$3.34 million in EMPG funding. Two-thirds of those dollars go directly to county emergency management programs.

FEMA Region V Director Ed Buikema also spoke at the conference. He presented a recap of federal efforts to last year's hurricanes. Hurricane Katrina was the largest natural disaster to ever take place in the U.S. More than 90,000 square miles in four states were affected and 700,000 people were displaced. Victims relocated to all 50 states. As of April, an estimated \$14 billion has been spent on Katrina response and recovery efforts.

Buikema told the audience that at the height of the disaster, FEMA's 800 tele-registration number received 100,000 calls a day. They have since upgraded the system to be able to handle 200,000 calls a day. The goal for the federal government was to be ready by June 1, the start of hurricane season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**WI Heat Awareness Day
June 15**

**WI Amateur Radio Recognition Day
June 17**

**National Lightning Safety
Awareness Week
June 18-24**

**National Preparedness Month
September 2006**

**WI Winter Awareness Week
November 13-17**



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